

**I. Please amend the specification by adding the following paragraph under the title on  
Page 1 as follows:**

**--Related Applications**

This application is a continuation application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/087,388, filed May 28, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,116,461, issued September 12, 2000; and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/589,552, filed June 7, 2000, to be issued January 8, 2002 as U.S. Patent No. 6,338,007. These parent applications are incorporated herein by reference. --

**II. Please cancel claims 1-94.**

**III. Please add the following new claims 95-141.**

95. (new) An apparatus, comprising:

a receptacle adapted for removable placement in a dispensing machine, said receptacle having a lid that is adapted for movement between an open position and a closed position; said receptacle being individually removable from said dispensing machine; and

an information storage device secured to or in said receptacle for storing information relative to contents of said receptacle.

96. (new) The apparatus of claim 95, further comprising a communication contact on said receptacle enabling the transfer of information between said information storage device and an information source.